

December 2nd, 2014
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Hinkle
Vice President Hepfer
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman McBride
Councilman Ryan
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Malm, Finance Director Chiodo, Betty Pleacher, Woodard & Curran Director Regina and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Mayor Plaisted and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting City Clerk Davis swore in Mayor Bob Plaisted, Council President Hinkle, Councilwoman Bega, and Councilman David Ryan, who were all unopposed in the November Election.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motioned carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

None

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Bega motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

- a) Bill Listing*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- b) Council Minutes – 11/18/14*
 - Recommendation - Approval
- c) Repurchase of Cemetery Lot 316, Blk C, 64th Addition*
 - Recommendation - Approval

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

11) a) CBA Ratification was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni, and spoke to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Public Employees Unit, and that we received confirmation by the Union to indicate the employees ratified the Agreement. The CBA has a 3 year duration that covers from October 1, 2014 through September 30th, 2017. We are pleased to be able to process pay raises for all employees for distribution to include the Union employees.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to accept the negotiated and recently ratified CBA between the City of Inverness and Public Employees Unit, and authorize the City Manager and Council President to execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motioned carried unanimously.

11) b) Valerie Theatre/Duke Energy Easement was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni advised that the attached Easement Agreement involves underground electric service, has been reviewed by City Legal Counsel and found acceptable for Council action. This easement is to protect Duke in the event we decide to relocate the transformer. Changes are always possible, but the options to make a change are extremely limited, yet, we must be prepared if a change becomes necessary.

Councilwoman Bega questioned where the transformer will be located, and it was noted to be on one end of the plaza property.

Councilman Ryan motioned to accept the Duke Energy Easement that covers work to install and if necessary, relocate the ground level transformer that serves the Valerie Theatre, and authorize the Council President execute the document. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.

11) c) State of Florida Cultural Facility Grant Contract – Valerie Theatre was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni, who advised that with the assistance from the special counsel of Avatar Grant Consultants, and with the support from the Office of Senator Charles Dean, the City of Inverness was awarded a Cultural Facilities Grant in May, 2013, with funds to be applied to the Valerie Theatre project in the amount of \$500,000. The current project budget included off-setting grant revenue of \$500,000 and the project budget allocated \$3,106,045 for the Valerie Theatre renovation, plaza development, and audio/visual acquisition and installation. The Cultural Facilities Grant Agreement is a standard instrument used by the State for these appropriations.

In packet is the 1st official step that puts us on pathway to begin receiving these funds. The accounting, use, match, etc. and must be met going forward, and noted all the requirements.

Councilman McBride expressed appreciation with administration and working with Senator Dean to accomplish this. This is a great thing for our City.

President Hinkle stated how great it was to have the support of Senator Dean

Councilman McBride motioned to accept the Grant Agreement between the State of Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the City of Inverness for the Valerie Theatre Cultural Center Renovation and Plaza Development Project, in the amount of \$500,000 as submitted, and authorize the Council President to execute the documents and for the City Manager to execute any change orders to the grant agreement as necessary. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.

11) d) WRPC – Representative Appointment - City Manager DiGiovanni explained that the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (WRPC) requires that municipal officials of Citrus County appoint one elected official to represent the two municipalities. The appointment has traditionally rotated with the City of Crystal River. At their request, the City of Crystal River would like the City of Inverness to continue as the representatives and we will address this again next year. Hinkle expressed how much he enjoys serving and meeting with people from the rest of the region.

Councilman McBride motioned to appoint Council President Hinkle as Municipal Representative on the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council for a term beginning December 11th, 2014 and ending December 10th 2015. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried unanimously.

11) e) Whispering Pines Park Fee Updates – Pool & Rentals - City Manager DiGiovanni, spoke to the well received, respected park facility which returns a high value to the public, and affects real and perceived property values of the area, and the community. He spoke to the park's heavy use, maintenance of the equipment, pool, facilities, etc. and the efforts put forth to keep the park functioning. The enclosed Resolution, addresses an adjustment to entrance fees for aquatics, individual and annual family passes, and furthers pricing differential for residents of the City and beyond. This helps keep us in the direction we need to go. We will be coming forward with policy changes and other modifications, as we move to the future.

Councilman Ryan noted the increase is nominal and we beat several other cities in all our fees, to include events.

Councilman McBride spoke of the increase across the board for daily admissions, and questioned the rational. City Manager stated the city residents are the ones that maintain the lion's share of the Park costs and that ought to reasonably be reflected.

Mayor Plaisted noted the amount under water fitness/contractual fee of 70/30%. City Manager explained the instructor reaps the 70% and the City 30%. This is an incentive for the instructors to bring more participants into the park to the program.

Councilman Ryan motioned to have the City Clerk read the Resolution by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2014 – 30

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, AMENDING FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE OF THE CITY'S FACILITIES; AMENDING FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE POOL ADMISSION, POOL MEMBERSHIP AND ESTABLISHING NEW FEES FOR USE OF THE CITY'S FACILITIES AT WHISPERING PINES PARK AND LIBERTY PARK.

City Clerk Davis noted that Resolution was renumbered from 2014-29 to 2014-30.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to adopt Resolution 2014-30 by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilman McBride. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; President Hinkle, yes. The motion carried.

11) f) Economic Development Council (EDC) Correspondence was addressed. City Manager DiGiovanni advised that EDC has restructured and going private, and the City of Inverness is no longer represented. He stated that this was brought to City Council to advise of the change and no formal action is request. He stated that if Council finds it desirable to continue on the Board of the Economic Development Council, a financial appropriation will be necessary. Entry level categories are indicated at \$1,000 and \$2,500 per annum, but require an elective process to be on the Board. The categories titled corporate or leadership come at a cost of \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year, and seems to guarantee board placement.

Mayor Plaisted questioned their reasoning as to why they wish to privatize, and City Manager noted that it may have to do with getting away from the Sunshine Law, but wasn't really sure.

Councilman McBride wished Mr. Taylor, Executive Director was here to get more information. As we stand right now there is no interest in us getting involved.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated we've done well on our own and the fee to sit on the board is way too much.

Councilwoman Bega agrees with prior statements and it appears that we would be buying our seat. Not sure how they would operate this.

City Attorney Haag noted the EDC received \$440,000 of funding through Duke Energy.

Councilman Ryan asked what EDC has done for the City of Inverness throughout the years.

City Manager DiGiovanni stated he was the voice that tried to control sprawl, noting the Port, the Medical Corridor, which are harmful to existing businesses, and spoke against the sprawl elements of planning. Designing zones of influences are needed to have sustainable economic development. Sprawling areas are very hard to sustain. The same thing holds true for housing, transportation networks, infrastructure, water and sewer. To maintain the course of doing what we know is working and investing in that, the people served will be better for it.

Councilwoman Hepfer questioned how we as city should approach, and noted that we should see where they are going before we decide how we will interact.

Councilman McBride questioned how the EDC has benefited our city throughout the years. Based on his knowledge, City Manager doesn't see a direct benefit.

City Manager DiGiovanni stated we need to wait and see how the new EDC reaches out to Inverness. He suggested setting up a meeting in February.

Mayor Plaisted spoke of a few years ago that Ocala hired a "tsar" and was so successful bringing businesses to the city and Marion County.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

- He noted that he had met with the County Commission this afternoon and spoke to the 9-point agreement that Commissioner Kitchen went through point by point. Whispering Pines Park was approached by the Commissioners stating \$400,000/yr. should be paid, with many other opinions expressed. The BOCC voted on Commissioner Kitchen's motion of the \$400,000, plus agreement on everything else. But there was a greater understanding of responsibility. We made it clear the City's goal is to work with the County and our approach as a city is to put the people first. Councilman McBride took from meeting that he clearly sees leadership on the Commission and spoke to Commissioner Kitchen wanting to get things done. We are valued once again. Commissioner Carnahan stated something distinctive regarding taxes being paid to parks by county residents. Looking forward to working with the county, which everyone will benefit. Smart Growth principles needs to be stressed.
- City Manager spoke to Light Up Inverness Event last week and hopes to do more of a light show next year.
- The State of the City will be addressed at the next meeting of City Council.

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Mayor Plaisted spoke to a letter from Sweetwater Point Homeowners Association commending Asst. City Manager Williams, and City Manager DiGiovanni.

Councilwoman Hepfer was looking forward to next meeting, and was excited about the Valerie Theatre and spoke of the tour today.

Councilwoman Bega enjoyed the tour of the Valerie theatre today, and was so impressed and excited. The meeting with the county today was a step forward.

Councilman Ryan congratulated the other elected officials for the past election and it is an honor to serve and live here. Going through the Valerie today was great and spoke of the plaza that will be a jewel within a jewel.

Councilman McBride congratulated the recently elected Councilmembers and Mayor. He was looking forward to the Christmas parade.

Council President Hinkle stated this is a great city to live in. He was away to Myrtle Beach for the holiday and missed the Light Up Inverness event. Spoke to Conway, NC a city incorporated in the 1780's, and they had a theatre they renovated. Spoke to our Theatre and how state of the art it will be. He is looking forward to 2015.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Karen Esty, Inverness, spoke to the BOCC and her reservations regarding impact fees, and wasn't sure how it will affect the City of Inverness' budget. This needs to be watched on the county level. She spoke to EDC going private and suggested the mayors from both cities should be put on the board without a fee. The question of the park's money Commissioner Carnahan spoke to and will follow till we find out where the money is going. Spoke positively about the Grand Prix. County & City has done a great job with tourism. Outside sports is something to market and thanked everyone in the City for their efforts. MPO/CAC meeting spoke of the need of a north/south corridor and need to hammer FDOT to keep 41 going.

Council President Hinkle commended HCA for taking over the hospital operation and it would be nice to have them come speak to us.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:53pm

City Clerk

Council President